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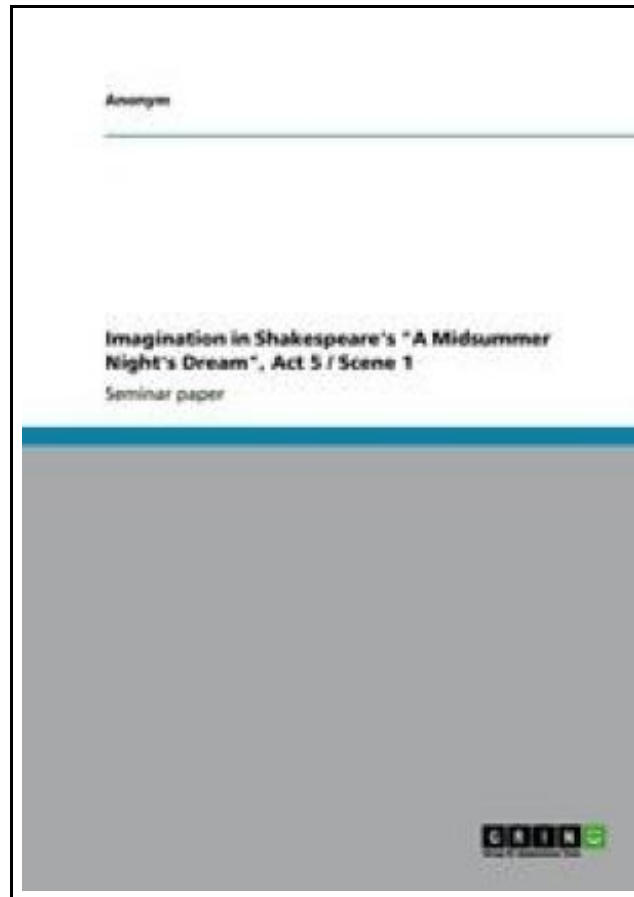

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Imagination in Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream", Act 5 / Scene 1

Seminar paper

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Reviews

This book is definitely not effortless to start on reading through but extremely fun to learn. Better then never, though i am quite late in start reading this one. It is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding, once you begin to read the book.
(Aliya Franecki)

IMAGINATION IN SHAKESPEARE'S "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM", ACT 5 / SCENE 1

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GRIN Verlag Dez 2010, 2010. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x2 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2010 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,0, University of Erfurt (Philosophische Fakultät), course: Shakespearean Comedy, language: English, abstract: The dream in A Midsummer Night s Dream implies a world of imagination, illusion and unconsciousness. In addition, the tradition and the popular beliefs of the midsummer festivals describe a time of unleashed natural forces (BOOCK, 1981: 70). The audience of the play indeed witnesses magical incidents in the fairies forest, where the fairy king and queen, Oberon and Titania, rule over the natural processes. Human beings seem to behave irrationally under the spell of these fairies and in the surrounding of this magic forest (SHAKESPEARE, 1980: II - IV). However, in contrast, the city of Athens is dominated by the rational Theseus, duke of Athens, who only believes in what cool reason is able to produce and to understand (SHAKESPEARE, 1980: V, i, 2 - 22). The contrast of imagination and reason represents one of the major oppositional pairs of themes of A Midsummer Night s Dream (KERRIGAN, 1998: 20ff). It becomes indirectly clear through the opposing worlds of forest and city and the ongoing actions in these two places. Furthermore, in the last scene of the play, the audience experiences directly a controversy between Theseus and his wife, Hippolyta, concerning the truth of the story about the incidents in the forest happened to the young Athenians Hermia, Helena, Lysander and Demetrius. Consequently, it is also a controversy about the value of imagination and reason (SHAKESPEARE, 1980: V, i, 1 - 27). Moreover, questions of imagination are brought up on another level. The play within the play...

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